

**REMARKS****Amendments to the Specification**

The specification has been amended to update the information regarding related applications. The title of the specification has also been amended. No new matter has been added.

**Amendments to the Claims**

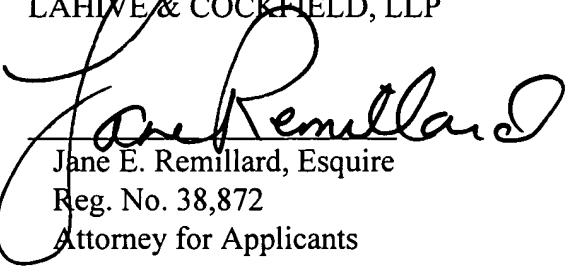
Claim 1 has been canceled herein. Claims 2-79 were canceled in the transmittal form accompanying the present application as originally filed. New claims 80-92 have been added herein. Accordingly, claims 80-92 are currently pending in the application. Support for new claims 80-92 can be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed.

No new matter has been added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to show changes made." Also attached hereto is a copy of all the pending claims as amended. This attached page is captioned "Pending Claims."

**SUMMARY**

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,  
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP



Jane E. Remillard, Esquire  
Reg. No. 38,872  
Attorney for Applicants

28 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Tel. (617) 227-7400  
Dated: 12/19/01

**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**In the Specification:

At page 1, line 3, before "Background of the Invention", the following paragraph has been added:

**Related Applications**

This application is a divisional application of U.S. serial number 08/553,336 filed on December 14, 1995 (pending), which claims priority to PCT/AU94/00117 filed on March 11, 1994, which in turn claims priority to U.S. serial number 08/031,141 filed on March 12, 1993 (abandoned) and U.S. serial number 08/081,540 filed on June 22, 1993 (pending).

At page 1, lines 1 and 2 and page 50, lines 1 and 2, the title has been amended as follows:

**A HOUSE DUST MITE ALLERGEN, *DER F VII*, AND USES THEREFOR**In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been canceled.

New claims 80-92 have been added.

**Pending Claims**

80. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a *Der f* VII protein allergen, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Fig. 6A and 6B (SEQ ID NO: 6), or the coding region thereof.

81. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a *Der f* VII protein allergen, comprising the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 6A and 6B (SEQ ID NO:7), or the mature portion thereof.

82. An isolated nucleic acid encoding an antigenic peptide of a *Der f* VII protein allergen, wherein the protein allergen comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 6A and 6B (SEQ ID NO:7), and wherein the antigenic peptide comprises at least one epitope of said allergen, but not the full-length protein allergen, and is not cross-reactive with *Der p* VII allergen.

83. The nucleic acid of claim 82, wherein the epitope is a T cell epitope.

84. The nucleic acid of claim 82, wherein the epitope is a B cell epitope.

85. An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein allergen capable of stimulating T cells specific for *Der f* VII protein allergen, but not *Der p* VII protein allergen, wherein the *Der f* VII protein allergen comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 6A and 6B (SEQ ID NO:7).

86. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polymorphic variant of a *Der f* VII protein allergen comprising the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 6A and 6B (SEQ ID NO:7).

87. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 81.

88. A host cell containing the vector of claim 87.

89. A method of producing a *Der f* VII protein allergen comprising culturing the host cell of claim 88 under conditions appropriate for expression of *Der f* VII protein and isolating *Der f* VII protein from the culture.

90. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 82.

91. A host cell containing the vector of claim 90.

92. A method of producing a *Der f* VII protein allergen comprising culturing the host cell of claim 91 under conditions appropriate for expression of *Der f* VII protein and isolating *Der f* VII protein from the culture.

TOP SECRET - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EDITION